

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:
a setup part for an exposure period ~~for generating~~ configured to generate a timing signal which prescribes an exposure period of an image pick up device;
a control part for the image pickup device ~~for controlling~~ configured to control an operation of said image pick up device in synchronization with said timing signal of the exposure period;
a timing part ~~for measuring~~ configured to measure an elapsed time from the timing signal of the exposure period; and
an imaging apparatus control part ~~for controlling~~ configured to control said control part for the image pick up device ~~control part~~ and said setup part for the exposure period ~~setup part~~,
wherein said timing part measures an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation to the beginning of the exposure setup operation by said setup part for the exposure period ~~setup part~~, and when a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation ~~calculated by the measured elapsed time~~ to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal to or greater than a predetermined time, said imaging apparatus control part shortens the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal from a regular exposure period.

Claim 2 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said predetermined time is a time required for conducting the exposure setup to said image pickup device control part.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein in order to shorten the time till the generation of the exposure period timing, the exposure period timing signal is generated earlier than the regular exposure period, right after the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part, and the exposure period is thereby begun.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An imaging method comprising the steps of:
preparing an image apparatus including an exposure period setup part ~~for generating~~
configured to generate a timing signal which prescribes an exposure period of an image pick up device, an image pick up device control part ~~for controlling~~ configured to control the image pick up device by synchronizing to the exposure period timing signal, a timing part ~~for measuring~~ configured to measure an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal, and an imaging apparatus control part ~~for controlling~~ configured to control the image pick up device control part and said exposure period setup part;

measuring an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation to the beginning of the exposure setup operation; and

judging whether or not a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation ~~calculated by the measured elapsed time~~ to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal to or greater than a predetermined time,

shortening the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal when the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal is judged to be equal or

greater than the predetermined time by said judging step, ~~the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal being shortened.~~

Claim 6 (Original): The imaging method according to Claim 5, wherein said predetermined time is a time required for conducting the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): The imaging method according to claim 5, wherein in order to shorten the time till the generation of the exposure period timing, the exposure period timing signal is generated earlier than the regular exposure period, right after the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part, and the exposure period is thereby begun.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium including computer executable instructions ~~control program run by a computer~~ provided in an imaging apparatus including an exposure period setup part ~~for generating~~ configured to generate a timing signal which prescribes an exposure period of an image pick up device, an image pick up device control part ~~for controlling~~ configured to control the image pick up device by synchronizing to the exposure period timing signal, a timing part ~~for measuring~~ configured to measure an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal, and an imaging apparatus control part ~~for controlling~~ configured to control said image pick up device control part and said exposure period setup part, the computer executable instructions causing the processor to perform a method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

measuring an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation to the beginning of the exposure setup operation by said exposure period setup part;

judging whether or not a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation ~~calculated by the measured elapsed time~~ to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal or greater than a predetermined time; and

outputting the exposure period timing signal for beginning the exposure period earlier than a generation of a regular next exposure period timing signal when the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal is judged to be equal to or greater than the predetermined time by said judging step.

Claim 10 (Original): The control program according to Claim 9, wherein said predetermined time is a time required for conducting the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original): The control program according to Claim 9, wherein in order to shorten the time till the generation of the exposure period timing, the exposure period timing signal is generated earlier than a regular exposure period, right after the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part, and the exposure period is thereby begun.

Claims 13-25 (Canceled).